



The President's Daily Brief

8 December 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On *Page 1* we note that President Pompidou's visit to the USSR next month should help his government's campaign in the coming elections and underline Pompidou's determination to play a key role in major East-West negotiations.

Romania's independent stance in the Helsinki talks has stirred sharp criticism from its Warsaw Pact allies. (*Page 2*)

In South Vietnam, three new decrees significantly enhance the Thieu government's power. (*Page 3*)

On *Page 4* we discuss Philippine President Marcos' progress in having his new constitution adopted. He can be expected to use yesterday's attack on his wife to justify further his extraordinary powers.

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Moscow apparently intends to respond favorably to the West's invitation to open MBFR talks soon. (*Page 5*)

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FRANCE-USSR

President Pompidou's visit to the USSR next month is particularly well-timed for the French. Facing parliamentary elections next spring, the government wants to undercut the Communist-Socialist coalition which, after a slow start, is showing increasing unity and popular support. By his trip Pompidou can both counter allegations of a Gaullist "slide toward Atlanticism" and emphasize France's carefully cultivated "special relationship" with Moscow. Foreign Minister Schumann has privately stated the government's campaign line: only a staunchly anti-Communist government can maintain close ties with Moscow without becoming subservient.

Coming at the outset of major East-West negotiations, the visit also underscores Pompidou's determination to play a key role in the process of detente. Both Paris and Moscow will use the visit to highlight the convergence of views on a number of issues affecting these negotiations, such as giving priority to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe over Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions.

Moscow, which sees value in demonstrating the vitality in the "special relationship," apparently is willing to allow the French Communist Party to pay whatever electoral price is necessary. To show that it has not forgotten the comrades, the Kremlin is sending senior Politburo member Suslov to the 20th congress of the French party next week.

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ROMANIA - EASTERN EUROPE

Romania's strenuous efforts at Helsinki to establish itself as an independent participant in preparations for a Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe have provoked sharp criticism from its allies. Warsaw considers that Bucharest's breaking of ranks is unnecessary, and fears that Moscow now may try to tighten Pact discipline. Party leader Gierek, who has considerably improved relations with Romania in his two years in power, has shown his displeasure by suddenly canceling a trip to Romania scheduled to begin on Sunday.

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Despite these reactions, the Romanians will continue pressing their own line in order to preserve and hopefully increase their room for maneuver as Europe moves toward detente.

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*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY***SOUTH VIETNAM**

Three new decrees announced this month have significantly enhanced the government's power. They extend and codify the authority given President Thieu by the Emergency Powers Act passed at the time of the Communists' spring offensive and scheduled to expire this month. Their major features include:

--A state of alert can be invoked in all or part of the country during a "critical situation" or "public calamity." The government could then control the movement of people and goods, end all strikes and demonstrations, and ban publications or leaflets considered detrimental to national security.

--A state of emergency can be imposed in the event of "imminent upset of public order or catastrophe." Under it officials can impose curfews, detain or arrest any individuals considered dangerous to public order, and declare martial law.

--A state of curfew can be ordered if there is "clear and critical danger to the national security." The government could then transfer all civil authority to the military.

When any of the decrees is invoked, officials are exempt from prosecution if they kill or injure anyone in self-defense. For the first time tough penalties, including capital punishment, can be imposed for economic crimes such as hoarding, overcharging, or spreading rumors designed to upset the economy.

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PHILIPPINES

President Marcos will use yesterday's attack on his wife to justify further the extraordinary powers which he employs now under martial law and is preparing to continue under a new constitution. A government spokesman has already charged that a "rightist conspiracy" is behind the attack. Increased arrests within the oligarchy could result.

Marcos will submit the constitution to national referendum next month and is busily orchestrating public support. He has also announced the formation of a mass national front organization that he hopes eventually will replace the traditional two-party system.

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NOTES

Cuba-Caribbean: Cuba expects to take part today in the signing of a joint declaration with the four Commonwealth Caribbean states formally agreeing to exchange diplomatic recognition.

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Negotiation of this declaration has been under way for more than a month, and at one point Jamaica's Prime Minister Manley had thought he would not go along.

USSR-MBFR:

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Moscow will soon respond favorably to the West's invitation to open discussions on Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions early in the new year. General Secretary Brezhnev acknowledged during a speech in Hungary last week that consultations were already under way on the matter among Moscow's Warsaw Pact allies. These may culminate in a formal Pact meeting later this month. Romania's insistence that it attend all stages of the MBFR talks has caused some complications for Moscow.

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Somalia: The Soviet role in Somalia

is one of several factors that have caused opposition to President Siad to reach dangerous proportions. Siad's harsh measures against his domestic opponents, his efforts to eradicate tribalism, and his unpopular socialist policies are also undermining his three-year rule. Several groups, which include members of the ruling council and senior military and police officers, are planning to remove him soon. Siad, on the other hand, is no novice in the business of foiling plots against his rule.

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Pakistan:

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Islamabad has ordered 18 Mirage III jet interceptors to augment its inventory of 20 Mirage IIIs previously acquired from France. In addition, sometime this month Pakistan is scheduled to receive at least the first five of 30 Mirage 5 ground attack aircraft ordered from Paris in 1970. Islamabad has also reportedly arranged with Peking to acquire next year a squadron of 12 to 16 TU-16 jet medium bombers to supplement its small force of aging US-built Canberra and Chinese IL-28 light bombers.

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